



For California's economy to flourish and meet the challenges of future growth and global competitiveness, our research institutions and economic development activities must constantly adjust to the changing nature of the world's market and must stay ahead of the curve at developing new technologies and creating new scientific advances. We must ensure our workforce is adequately prepared to conduct cutting edge research, to incubate new businesses based on exciting new developments and trends and to create the products and services needed at home and abroad.

"California is a world-class economic powerhouse because of the diversity of our people, the quality of our research institutions and the cutting-edge entrepreneurial spirit of our people," Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said. "We have no greater challenge than maintaining and growing our economy in today's global marketplace."

The challenges of global climate change and the repair and restoration of our environment create extraordinary opportunities to develop new businesses and technologies that are based on the concept of sustainable growth. Our researchers, entrepreneurs and our government must transform their activities to meet our state's needs for reducing greenhouse gasses and carbon based fuels, and then export these newly developed methodologies worldwide.

The Lieutenant Governor is the Chair of the California Commission on Economic Development (CED), which is the only statutorily created body whose purpose is to provide advice, support and direction to the legislature and the Governor on the best ways to prepare California's economy for the future. Working with Governor Schwarzenegger, the Lieutenant Governor has reinvigorated the CED and set two critical imperatives: the development of a sustainable growth economy and the preparation of California's future workforce to meet our state's needs. The Lieutenant Governor intends for the CED to be an incubator for new ideas and best practices that will help California maintain its leadership role for the global economy.

Critical to the economic development of our state is evaluating the relationship between our educational system and the needs of California's businesses and economy. To gain a greater understanding of this relationship, the Lieutenant Governor is conducting a statewide "Listening Tour" at each of the 23 California State Universities. These forums bring together academia at all levels with the business and labor communities in an effort to ascertain best practices and unfulfilled needs in this area.

The Lieutenant Governor's Listening Tours have clearly shown the importance of investing in and developing career and technical education programs that meet the workforce needs of California's businesses and provide the opportunity for well paying and satisfying careers. Opportunities exist in a wide range of fields from computer technology to healthcare to the building and construction trades. Some of these careers require as little as six months preparation, while others require completion of community college level programs. By ensuring that Californians have access to training programs in these areas we not only meet the needs of our business community but will ensure many more Californians a higher standard of living and quality of life.

Advocacy in Action

"As Lieutenant Governor, one of my top priorities is to use my positions both as Chair of the Commission on Economic Development and as a trustee of the UC and CSU systems to build

the workforce needed for a sustainable economy in California."

- [California's Education System: Preparing for the Future, Meeting the Community's Needs and Developing the Workforce](#)
- [Lt. Governor Announces Action Plan to Address Critical Workforce Needs](#)